

This measure would allow broadcasters to deprive the general public of rights that they have enjoyed for decades and have come to expect: the ability to record whatever television programs they wish and to watch them whenever, wherever, and as many times as they wish, all without charge other than the cost of the necessary equipment. These rights have been supported by court decisions in suits brought against manufacturers of recording equipment.

The proposed mandate would have little effect on video piracy other than to delay it for a short while until those few individuals who are truly determined to pirate programming find a technological means of bypassing the copy protection. Moreover, there would likely arise a large black market in the sale of devices to bypass copy protection as many people, angered by the new restrictions they found themselves under, sought to rid themselves of these irksome limitations.

So the net result of a copy protection mandate would simply be to anger normally law-abiding citizens and cause many of them to become criminals. Clearly, such a mandate is not in the best interest of the general public. Therefore, I wholeheartedly oppose it.